

What is claimed is:

1. An expandable absorbent material comprising superabsorbent in an amount from about 1 to about 75 weight percent and crimped thermoplastic fibers in an amount from about 25 to about 99 weight percent, where said material has a density of from about 0.02 g/cc to
5 about 0.25 g/cc.
2. The material of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic fibers are conjugate fibers.
3. The material of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic fibers are elastic fibers.
4. The material of claim 2 wherein said conjugate fibers are comprised of polyolefin.
5. The material of claim 2 wherein said conjugate fibers are comprised of polyolefin and
10 superabsorbent in a side-by-side configuration.
6. The material of claim 2 wherein said conjugate fibers are comprised of polyolefin and poly(vinyl alcohol) in a side-by-side configuration.
7. The material of claim 1 further comprising a binder
8. The material of claim 7 wherein said binder is a liquid.
9. The material of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic fibers are mechanically crimped.
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10. The material of claim 1 wherein said material has an electret charge.
11. The material of claim 1 which expands at least about 50 percent upon wetting.
12. A personal care product selected from the group consisting of diapers, training pants, feminine hygiene products, absorbent underpants and adult incontinence products
20 comprising the material of claim 1.
13. The product of claim 12 wherein said personal care product is an adult incontinence product.
14. The product of claim 12 wherein said personal care product is a feminine hygiene product.
- 25 15. The product of claim 12 wherein said personal care product is a diaper.

16. A surge material for personal care products comprising an expandable absorbent material comprising superabsorbent particles in an amount from about 20 to about 60 weight percent and crimped conjugate thermoplastic fibers in an amount from about 40 to about 80 weight percent, where said material has a density of from about 0.02 g/cc to about 0.15 g/cc.

17. The surge material of claim 16 having superabsorbent particles in an amount from about 30 to about 50 weight percent.

18. The material of claim 17 wherein said conjugate fibers are comprised of polyolefin.

19. A retention material for personal care products comprising an expandable absorbent material comprising superabsorbent particles in an amount from about 25 to about 75 weight percent and crimped conjugate thermoplastic fibers in an amount from about 25 to about 50 weight percent, where said material has a density of from about 0.05 g/cc to about 0.25 g/cc.

20. The material of claim 19 wherein said conjugate fibers are comprised of polyolefin.